

## King Hussein leaves hospital in Houston after check-up

HOUSTON, May 5 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein left St. Lucas Hospital here today after undergoing a general medical check-up, which proved to be positive. The King's private physician, explaining the reason for this check-up, said that His Majesty had felt heart palpitations several times during the past years. His Majesty will stay on vacation for a short period in the United States before his return to Jordan.

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## Peres: Peace won't work if forced on Israel

TEL AVIV, May 5 (Agencies) — The United States should concentrate on acting as honest broker in the Middle East because any imposed solution would be imposed on Israel alone, acting Israeli Premier Shimon Peres said here today.

The U.S. had no means of imposing anything on the Arabs, he told a luncheon with the foreign press here. Mr. Peres was commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's recent statement that the U.S. plans to put forward "suggestions on all the core issues in the Middle East conflict."

Until now, Mr. Peres said, the U.S. had the greatest success when "they acted like brokers, like mediators, and did not present any plan of their own."

If the U.S. put to Israel "some ideas which, according to Washington, can advance peace in our region, we will study them carefully," Mr. Peres went on. But if the U.S. threatened to punish Israel if it refused to accept U.S. suggestions, that would be an imposed solution, he said.

In a separate interview published in the conservative West German newspaper Die Welt, Mr. Peres said he believed President Carter was basically friendly towards Israel.

"I haven't the slightest doubt that we will find a common language," he went on. "I do not believe that one can find a

## Italian Democrats, Communists discuss joint programme

ROME, May 5 (R). — Italy's Christian Democratic and Communist Party chiefs today discussed a possible joint legislative programme which could bring the Communists closer to power.

It was the first time since a brief coalition government after the Second World War that the Communists had been invited to formal talks on the way Italy is governed.

Using almost identical language, Communist chief Enrico Berlinguer and Christian Democratic Party Secretary Democrazia Zaccagnini said after their three and a half-hour meeting they had found "convergences and divergences."

## PNA leaders escape arrest by jumping out of windows

LAHORE, May 5 (R). — Pakistani opposition leaders jumped out of windows at their headquarters here today to escape from police who arrested at least 20 of their colleagues, reliable sources said.

Former Law Minister Mahmud Ali Kasuri, acting Secretary General of the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), was among those detained when three truckloads of police raided the alliance's offices, the sources said.

The 27-member general council of the nine-party PNA coalition had been meeting to arrange demonstrations in the city tomorrow.

The sources said some of them escaped by jumping out of back windows of the building.

Political observers said the roundup was meant to prevent any organised demonstrations tomorrow, when the PNA has called a "mass day" to honour those killed in the last two months of opposition agitation against the government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Nearly all the top and second-line leaders of the PNA have been arrested in the past six weeks. The principal ones are now in a detention centre outside Islamabad holding discussions on a possible compromise settlement with Mr. Bhutto.

The leaders this week submitted their formula for a political solution to Mr. Bhutto, but they have not yet made their demands public.

In Islamabad in a statement in today's newspapers, Pakistan's Defence Ministry has accused former air force chief Aghar Khan, now a prominent opposition leader, of preaching sedition to the armed forces.

The ministry said a recent call by Mr. Aghar Khan to military officers not to support

## Anti-boycott legislation passed by U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, May 5 (R). — The U.S. Senate today passed by a vote of 90-1 legislation aimed at prohibiting American companies from complying with the Arab boycott of Israel.

The action came on anti-boycott legislation similar to that passed recently by the House of Representatives.

But the two bills differ somewhat and therefore House and Senate conferees will have to get together to work out a compromise.

The Senate version contained compromise language which Senator Jacob Javits, a New York Republican, said would avert what could have been a "highly difficult and tense confrontation" between Jewish groups and U.S. businesses.

Some senators argued that the bill leaves several loopholes that would permit companies to go along with the laws of Arab countries in which they do business.

The report said joint Soviet-Ethiopian documents had been agreed, but gave no details.

# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية « الراي »



DEPARTURE CEREMONY -- U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale offers remarks during a departure ceremony for President Carter at the White House Thursday.

## Carter starts European tour

WASHINGTON, May 5 (R). — U.S. President Carter left here today for London, expressing optimism about the prospects for success on his first overseas trip since taking office.

During the five-day trip, the President will attend three international meetings in London -- the seven-nation summit on world economic problems, a ministerial Nato conference and talks on Berlin.

In the middle of the London meetings, he will fly to Geneva for talks on Monday with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

This will be the last in a round of meetings between Mr. Carter and leaders of front-line countries in the Middle East.

Before leaving the White House by helicopter for Andrews air force base to fly to London, the president said he hoped to "well and truly represent what the American people would like their president to do in discussions on world problems with other leaders."

"I feel good about the prospects for success and I believe when I come back after this five-day trip we'll have made a major step forward on world peace and in dealing with world problems," he added.

"I'll try to do a good job for you and when I come back I think I'll have had a successful trip," Mr. Carter said.

Referring to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr. Peres said "the PLO is an organisation without people and the West Bank is a people without an organisation. These are two different things... We see in a Palestinian state the re-organisation of the war by another method."

He added: "This state would clearly be aimed at a continuation of the war and the whole PLO establishment would quite simply be transferred from the Lebanon to the West Bank."

"As one of the leaders of this country, I would never reach out my hand to establish a situation similar to the Lebanon in the immediate neighbourhood of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv or other places."

Asked about the possibility of a U.S. Israeli defence alliance as an additional safeguard to a settlement of the conflict, Mr. Peres said "it is clear that such an alliance would have to be the result of an American and not an Israeli initiative. If the U.S. intends this, then yes."

## Lebanese rightist warns of partition danger

BEIRUT, May 5 (R). — The leader of Lebanon's rightwing militia warned here last night that "if things carry on the way they are in Lebanon, then there will be partition or worse than partition."

Mr. Bashir Gemayel, leader of the joint command of all rightwing fighting forces, gave this warning in a statement quoted here today by the Phalangist daily Al 'Ammal.

Speaking about the possible partition of this tiny country of three million inhabitants, Mr. Gemayel said, "That is what we definitely do not want, although we used to be accused of working towards it."

Mr. Gemayel said that the rightwingers support what has been dubbed "the Lebanese interpretation" of the controversial Cairo agreement of 1969, which regulates the presence of Palestinian guerrillas in the country.

"We are with the Lebanese interpretation, and if other interpretations are proposed, then we might have to adopt another position, which would be decided in the light of the demands of the present stage and our view of the way things are going," Mr. Gemayel said.

He stressed that institutions created in regions of the country held by the rightists during the recent civil war, such as a separate branch of the national university and an international airport currently nearing completion in north Lebanon, would not be abandoned -- even to the government.

President Elias Sarkis today conferred with one of Syria's

leading political allies in Lebanon, Mr. Assem Qanso, leader of the pro-Syrian Baath Party.

He told newsmen after the meeting that there were two important obstacles to applying the Cairo agreement, which regulates the activities of commandos in Lebanon.

His comments came as the Beirut daily Al Nahar, which is close to President Sarkis, reported that the authorities preferred to pause before pressing ahead with the full application of the Cairo agreement.

Mr. Qanso said after seeing the president that the two obstacles to its implementation were:

- The demand in the Lebanese interpretation that there be only seven armed men for every 1,000 inhabitants of the camps, and
- The question of how to ensure the authorities' presence in the camps, and whether this should be imposed by force.

A spokesman for Mr. Qanso's party said the Baathists had called on the president "to continue the attitude of deliberation and understanding and avoid a military solution."

Mr. Qanso said there was talk of reviving an old Lebanese-Palestinian coordination committee, including army representatives, to try to resolve the remaining differences over the Cairo agreement.

In another development, Walid Junblatt today officially took over as leader of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in succession to his father Kamal, who was assassinated in March, the party announced today.

### NOTICE TO OUR READERS

The Jordan Times today publishes the first part of an open discussion with Prof. Malcolm Rooper Kerr on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. We incorrectly stated yesterday that it would appear on Wednesday.

## Mengistu satisfied with Moscow talks

MOSCOW, May 5 (R). — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam, seeking closer ties with Moscow after severing his country's military alliance with the United States, was today reported satisfied with the results of two days of talks here.

Col. Mengistu was believed to have sought Soviet arms to make up the deficit caused by the ending of over 20 years of U.S. military aid to his country.

An official report on the talks, issued by the Soviet TASS news agency, said he and President Nikolai Podgorny paid special attention to the question of consolidating progressive forces in the struggle against "international imperialism and reaction."

TASS said the Ethiopian and Soviet leaders expressed satisfaction with the results of the discussions and pledged to work for stronger Soviet-Ethiopian friendship and cooperation.

But observers said the report contained no clear indication that Col. Mengistu had received Soviet arms pledges, although yesterday TASS said they discussed "the defence of the revolutionary accomplishments of the Ethiopian people."

TASS said today that their talks, in which Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko also took part, were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

The report said joint Soviet-Ethiopian documents had been agreed, but gave no details.

## EEC spokesman reveals

### Missing uranium cargo could be used to make nuclear explosives

BRUSSELS, May 5 (R). — The 200 tons of uranium which disappeared on the high seas while being shipped from Belgium to Italy in 1968 was of a type that could be used to make nuclear explosives, a European Commission spokesman confirmed today.

Informed sources said there was little doubt in Brussels that the uranium had ended up in Israel. The Israeli Atomic Energy Commission has denied that Israel had any connection with the missing shipment.

The sources said the uranium was aboard the Hamburg-registered freighter Scheersberg (1,170 tons) when it disappeared. The ship had British officers and an international crew.

The EEC commission, which has been very embarrassed by the revelation that the uranium had vanished, today made public

details of what it knew about the affair.

A commission spokesman, who told questioners that uranium of the type that disappeared could be processed to make explosives, said that the West German Asmara chemical company bought the uranium, which had been mined in Zaire, from the Belgian Societe General des-minerais and chartered the Scheersberg to take it to Genoa.

While still in Antwerp the ship changed its registration from West German to Liberian. It sailed on Nov. 16, 1968, and disappeared in the high seas. The Italian Saica Company, which was to have processed the uranium to make catalysts for the petrochemical industry, had confirmed that the shipment had not arrived, the spokesman said.

Informed sources said that the EEC atomic energy agency Euratom had conducted its own inquiry into the disappearance of the uranium, which was first revealed last month by Mr. Paul Leventhal, an American nuclear expert.

But although Euratom told the West German, Italian, Belgian, and U.S. governments that the uranium had disappeared it received little help from these countries' intelligence services, the sources said. The inquiry, dependent on governmental cooperation, was suspended in 1970 without reaching any conclusion, they added.

The sources said that the Scheersberg reappeared in the Mediterranean about a year after the uranium incident. It later became the Greek-registered Haroula and is now the Cyprus-registered Kayra.

## Commandos claim life of Israeli police officer

BEIRUT, May 5 (R). — Palestinian commandos said tonight they ambushed an Israeli police officer's car on the main road between Jericho and Jerusalem yesterday. The Palestine news agency Wafa said the officer and his driver were killed. It named the officer as Brig. Dov Korts and the driver as Levi Kov. The agency said Palestinian commandos also planted incendiary time bombs, which exploded at a new settlement building in Lydda last night, causing heavy damage.

## Israeli troops disperse two West Bank demonstrations

TEL AVIV, May 5 (R). — Israeli troops fired tear gas grenades to disperse Arab students demonstrating in Nablus today, and used batons to clear the main road linking Hebron and Jerusalem near the village of Halhoul.

But except for the two demonstrations, the Israeli-occupied West Bank was quiet today after a series of protest demonstrations in the area over the past two weeks. Two Arabs were killed in clashes with Israeli troops on Tuesday.

Commenting on that incident, in which a youth and a woman died, the Israeli trade union daily Davar today blamed the Jewish militant Gush Emunim organisation for inciting the demonstrations.

The religious rightwing group, which calls for the annexation of the occupied Arab territories, had publicised plans for new Jewish settlements and this had brought about the incidents, the newspaper said.

Davar warned that if Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the U.S.-based Jewish Defence League,

tried to set up election headquarters in the Arab town of Nablus, more demonstrations could be expected.

But the newspaper Yediot Aharonot, in an editorial, blamed the West Bank disturbances on Israel's leniency.

"The response to stone throwing and the like should have been far more severe," the newspaper said.

It was reported today that Israeli military authorities plan to set up road blocks tomorrow to prevent the Jewish Defence League from trying to establish an illegal settlement near Nablus.

Mayors of West Bank towns and villages were promised that the authorities would not sanction the attempt by the hard-line organisation to found a settlement there.

In an effort to reduce the tension, the Nablus Chamber of Commerce today urged Arab students to return to school.

Arab leaders in the West Bank have asked the Israeli authorities to keep the election

campaign out of the occupied territory.

The league's announced intention sparked off the wave of protest demonstrations in West Bank towns in which the Arab youth and a woman were shot dead.

A curfew imposed on the Casbah -- the old market district -- in Nablus was lifted last night, but only a few shops were open early today.

Israeli troops questioned about the shootings returned to their bases after it was concluded that they had fired "in legitimate self-defence."

Israel said yesterday that it has broken up eight Arab guerrilla groups operating in the West Bank.

An Israeli army spokesman said most of the 66 Arab guerrillas recently detained belonged to the Fatah organisation.

The others were members of Dr. George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Iraqi-backed Arab Liberation Front.

He said all were found in possession of weapons and sabotage material.

## PLO, Rakah delegations met officially twice in Prague

TEL AVIV, May 5 (R). — A delegation from Israel's pro-Moscow Rakah Communist Party met twice this week in Prague with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, a Rakah spokesman said here today.

The spokesman said the talks "formed the beginning of developing relations between the two bodies."

He said details of the subjects discussed would probably be divulged when two of the Rakah officials, Dr. Emile Touma and Mr. Uzi Burstein, returned to Israel tomorrow.

The meeting was believed to

be one in a series initiated when Rakah and PLO leaders met in the Soviet Union last year.

Though some of its leaders are Jewish, the overwhelming majority of Rakah members are Israeli Arabs and the party has increasingly taken on the public image of a legal Arab nationalist opposition to the Israeli government.

The PLO meeting was expected to aid Rakah in the forthcoming Israeli general elections where the Communists are expected to make wide gains among Israel's half-million strong Arab minority.

The Jerusalem Post said the PLO officials at the Prague meeting were Mr. Majid Abu Sharrar, identified as Director General of the Fatah Revolutionary Committee, Mr. Issam Abdul Latif, member of the politburo of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Mr. Abdallah Horani, said to be Director General of the PLO's Cultural and Information Division. Also present was Mr. Arabi Awad of the Jordanian Communist Party, the Post said.

In Prague, the Czech official news agency Ceteka reported yesterday that the two sides exchanged views in a cordially atmosphere.

"The two sides emphasised that this (meeting) was the beginning of developing relations

between them, as well as with other democratic and progressive forces," Ceteka said.

(Although the Israeli Communist Party supports the PLO, observers in Tel Aviv could not recall any previously publicised meeting between them.)

In Beirut the Palestinian news agency yesterday said that the two delegations had exchanged views on "the common struggle."

Both delegations thanked the Czechoslovak Communist Party for hosting the meeting.

The Prague meeting was the first official contact between the PLO and the Israeli delegation.

Non-official meetings had been held between members of the Palestinian resistance and Israelis since the PLO was created 13 years ago.

Just recently semi-official meetings took place in Paris between Israeli General Beled and PLO official Issam Sartawi. These meetings were, however, officially denied by the PLO.

Observers recalled that during the March meeting in Cairo of the Palestinian National Council an official clause of a 15 point political programme stressed "the importance of relations with democratic and progressive Jewish forces" (both in the occupied territories and externally) which are fighting against Zionism both ideologically and practically.

## Zaire asked to call off public parade of seven detained newsmen

KINSHASA, May 5 (R). — Western ambassadors today asked the Zaire government to call off plans to parade seven detained European journalists in public here tomorrow to determine whether they are newsmen or spies.

Reliable sources said the request had been referred to President Mobutu Sese Seko who is in troubled Shaba province where the seven were detained last week while covering a drive by Moroccan-backed government forces to crush a rebel incursion.

The official news agency Azap said today that the seven were detained in the dusty railway town of Mutshatsha and that they carried accreditation from the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. This is the ruling party in the neighbouring Marxist state which President Mobutu has accused of fomenting the rebellion.

A western military source said today that the rebels were stiffening their resistance to the two-pronged government counter-offensive in Shaba -- the former secessionist Katanga province.

The detained journalists are a four-man Spanish television

crew, Frenchman Regis Bossu, Mr. Erich Folath, 28, of the Hamburg magazine Stern and the prize-winning London-journalist Colin Smith, 32, of the Observer.

The government plans to parade the seven men before their fellow-journalists to establish whether they are journalists or spies. Film in their cameras will be shown in public.

Official Zaire media reports have said that the seven were accused of having secret contacts with the rebels and were lucky to be alive since they could have been shot as mercenaries.

Reliable sources said the four ambassadors had told Zaire officials today that they wanted to avoid the potential humiliation of being present at tomorrow's parade while their nationals were being denounced and that the parade would harm Zaire's image as a friend of the West.

The countries most likely to be able to influence the president's decision on the appeal are West Germany, whose foreign minister is due to visit Kinshasa next week, and France, which flew Moroccan troops here last month to strengthen President Mobutu's forces.

# JORDAN TIMES

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## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I, AL DUSTOUR and AL SHA'B dailies Thursday devoted their editorials to the renewed demonstrations in the West Bank against the Israeli occupation and settlement plans.

AL RA'I says the people of the West Bank "have illustrated a new heroic struggle against the occupation and its fascist gangs in the occupied territories during the past few days." It says, after Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah rose against the occupation, Qabatiya went out to cry in the face of the occupiers: "Get out of our land. It is our land, the land of our fathers and grandfathers. We will not allow you to set up settlements for the foreigners to dwell in."

Al SHA'B suggests that the U.N. Security Council be called for an urgent meeting to take any necessary, deterrent measures against Israel, including its possible expulsion from U.N. membership.

AKHBAR AL USBU' weekly described King Hussein's current American trip as the most successful Arab information campaign launched in the U.S.

It said in a frontpage editorial that the outcome of the King's talks and statements had been astonishing.

Qabatiya, the paper adds, has offered the blood of its sons in defence of its national and Arab honour. "Qabatiya has staked with dishonour the neo-Naziism, represented by the Israeli authority, and its day-to-day actions against the Arab people, totally unarmed save with belief in their homeland and their rights."

AL DUSTOUR describes the demonstrations as a new uprising by the West Bankers in their search for freedom and in defence of their land in the face of the Israeli settlement onslaught, aimed at uprooting them from their homes.

The paper says "the Palestinian people are now resisting an old and un-ending Israeli plot to transfer them into a people without a land -- a conspiracy which Israel is trying feverishly to carry out before the Geneva conference, in order to achieve what it habitually calls the 'fait accompli'."

AL SHA'B maintains that the will of the people to survive is the decisive factor in any str-

uggle. This fact, the paper says, is "exemplified every day on our occupied areas, through the steadfastness of the people there in the face of a settlement invasion wrought with the most rancorous racism."

"This is because King Hussein succeeded within a few days to deepen the positive trends in American public opinion and open the eyes of the American people to the real situation in the region, which is now facing the gravest dangers as a result of Israel's persistence in its policy," it added.

"It can be said that King Hussein's statements and official talks, though short, were the most successful Arab information campaign launched in the U.S.," the paper said.

It added that the King had made things crystal clear and affirmed "the American government's responsibility for preserving the interests of the American people first and human rights and morality advocated by the American president."

The paper expressed confidence that the results of the tour would be "very useful despite the counter-attack launched by Zionist media to maintain an unclear picture before American public opinion."

# When it comes to the crunch, the role demanded of the Carter administration in Mideast peace may be too much, U.S. expert says

Following is part one of a series of articles on the proceedings of an open discussion between Prof. Malcolm Rooper Kerr of the Department of Political Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles, (UCLA), and a number of Jordanian intellectuals and newsmen. Dean of the Division of Social Sciences at UCLA since 1973, Prof. Kerr is currently on a Middle East tour. The discussion is of particular significance as Prof. Kerr was a member of the Middle East study group organised by the Brookings Institution. The group issued a report entitled "Toward Peace in the Middle East," which recommended that:

The Palestinians have a right to self-determination and to be recognised in principle and given satisfaction in practice as part of a peace settlement in the Middle East;

The Palestinians must recognise the sovereignty and integrity of Israel within agreed frontiers and must accept security arrangements in the peace settlement;

The peace settlement should include provision for the resettlement of those Palestinian refugees desiring to return to whatever new Palestinian entity is created and reasonable compensation for property losses for Arab refugees from Israel and Jews formerly resident in Arab states.

Following are the names of the participants in the discussion with Prof. Kerr:

Dr. Ali Mahabza, Faculty of Arts, History Department, University of Jordan.  
Dr. Ismail Abdul Rahman, Faculty of Economics, Political Sciences, University of Jordan.  
Mr. Mahmud Al Kayed, Al Raf' Editor in Chief.  
Dr. Amin Mahmud, Faculty of Arts, History Department, University of Jordan.  
Dr. Bashir Khadra, Faculty of Economics, Political Sciences, University of Jordan.  
Mr. Rami Khouri, former Managing Editor, Jordan Times.  
Mr. Jenab Tutunji, Managing Editor, Jordan Times.  
Mr. Salem Nabhas, Senior Editor, Jordan Times.



Prof. Malcolm Kerr (second from right) replies to a question during Wednesday's round table discussion at the Jordan Press Foundation.

Let me explain how I happened to come here. I am spending a school year in Cairo and thanks to the U.S. Information Service I came up here to visit the university and to visit the newspaper here and to make other contacts, to go across the river and do something similar in Israel, and I hope in the West Bank.

As some of you may know I had a small involvement with some of this American Middle East policy in an indirect way, because I was a member of the Brookings Institution committee that made recommendations which Carter seems to be adopting in surprising seriousness.

I mean I didn't really expect that he or anybody else would pick up a sentence of what the Brookings group said. But Brzezinski was a member of it and William Quandt, who is Brzezinski's Middle East specialist, was also a member of it -- perhaps this explains why Mr. Carter seems to be picking up some of the ideas that came out of that session ... that group.

The group existed from June 75 till November December 75. We used to meet every month for 2 days. This was an ad-hoc group of people -- They were all American citizens, and a large number of them, almost half were Jewish ranging from hawks to doves, or from close involvement with Israel to not so close involvement.

And then on the other side there was a certain random mixture of people. They found two Arab Americans -- it's hard to find Arab Americans, I mean compared to Jewish Americans -- Najib Halabi was there and Professor Fred Khouri was there and few people like myself who are not Arabs but have some background in or link with the Arab countries, and few others like Brzezinski.

So the whole process was sort of indirect negotiations. I mean the ones who knew Israel would say look that's what we think Israel would insist on or what she will accept or won't accept, and the others would say something similar about the Arab states and Palestinians, and we came up with this document which I am not sure anybody believes in with enthusiasm. It was a kind of compromise by proxy.

So I would say you could get 15 to 20 other people in a room and come out with a different document. If you were to bring together Arabs and Israelis, they might come out with nothing at all, or with three documents.

I didn't take it so seriously but Carter seems to like it.

Dr. Mahmud: Since you have been involved in the Brookings report and all sorts of activities related to the Middle East, what kind of future do you foresee for the so called Palestine problem, the Arab-Israeli problem?

Now everybody is talking about Geneva, and right now Carter is meeting with heads of Arab states. What do you expect will come out of this?

Prof. Kerr: Well of course it is an unusually complicated set up, as we would all agree I'm sure. I think nobody is terribly enthusiastic or optimistic about Geneva, and for different reasons. For one thing Geneva is just a word, the name of a city, and I doubt that any one seriously expects that all the parties are going to sit together in the city of Geneva, sit around a table for

months and months, and work out the details of source total and permanent settlement to this conflict.

I think instead Geneva means that there will be a serious effort by the major parties and by the United States and I hope the Soviet Union to try to examine the serious aspects of the conflict. I mean the roots of the conflict, instead of playing with the periphery of the conflict as the step-by-step diplomacy seemed to mean.

Geneva means that we don't do disengagement agreements, it means we talk about the Palestinian problem, we talk about Israel's future as a state and we talk about whether there should be peaceful relationship or not, about Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and maybe some General Assembly resolutions -- these things.

I don't believe that anyone would hope for more. I mean people who want this to succeed -- and some do not want it -- but the ones who want it to succeed, I suppose they want by the end of 1977 to see some preliminary step that would lead to other steps. And in a few years time, we will find out if there is some chance for progress or not.

Personally I am not terribly optimistic. I mean we have had so many failures in the past and the parties are very far apart and very mistrustful of each other, and the United States has often played a role before but it was never sufficient. I would like to think that it will be more adequate this time, but I don't know if it will be sufficient or not.

Mr. Khouri: Do you think that from the American perspective there is a realisation at last that the Palestinians will have to be dealt with as a question of national, political rights, involving self-determination, and the fact that the Palestinian recognition of Israel

that everyone asks for so vehemently and so frequently will only come about when there is a simultaneous and mutual recognition of the Palestinians by the Israelis? Do you think that the Americans are finally beginning to recognise this as the core of the problem?

Prof. Kerr: Well as you say 'starting to', sure. But it is very difficult to measure the depth of this process, or the extent of it. As you know, Carter has made some open comments about a 'homeland' and so forth and it has been in the papers for some time, off and on. I think anyone who tries to keep up with the American press has seen some movement on this issue, some creeping realisation about the substance of it, but one doesn't always know whether it is any more than a kind of intellectual realisation. Is it really an internal realisation, a grasping of the crucialness, the fundamentalness of the Palestinian role?

I don't know. I think maybe we are still only on the intellectual level. That means we get a certain amount of lip service, and maybe some good intentions, but people may not have realised how much it is going to take from the American perspective to make this realisation effective. Because the more you talk about Palestinian rights, the more you really try to have something serious happen, the more you are trying to have a serious alteration of America's relationship with Israel -- I mean it is a painful subject in the United States.

Mr. Khouri: But if it is still on the intellectual level doesn't this make mince-meat of the whole process of peace in Geneva and all that? Isn't it then reduced to sheer talk?

Prof. Kerr: It depends on whether you are talking about the intent of the calculations or you are making a projection

of the likely result. I'd say that the ground for pessimism is that even if the intentions are good, when it comes to the crunch, the part that is going to be demanded from the U.S. to make things really happen is going to be more than the United States administration is going to be willing to accept. Maybe they won't even realise how inadequate their position is.

But if you are thinking it is a charade, then I would say no. Of course I can't prove that it isn't a charade, and of course there will be people who, if it fails, will look back and say all that Carter tried to do was to buy time. I don't believe that. I think he is a more serious person than that.

I mean here we have an article in the Jordan Times where he is quoted as saying: "I would not hesitate, if I clearly saw a fair and equitable solution, to use the full strength of our own country and its persuasive powers to bring these nations to agreement."

That's the kind of level. But does he know what it is really going to take?

Mr. Tutunji: I was wondering about something else he said there. He is suggesting a novel approach, airing out the problem, describing the difficulties to the American people. Do you think this will be a fruitful approach?

Prof. Kerr: Again, if he really means it, and if he recognises what it implies, then I would say absolutely yes, because it seems to me the U.S. president has a tremendous persuasive capacity inside America that hasn't been used for the last generation -- I mean hardly ever. Ford and Nixon never exercised it. Carter is the first one since Kennedy or Eisenhower to even give the impression that he wants to educate the American public at all about the Middle East.

So yes, if he really puts his mind to it, and if he really explains to the public, then we are going to have to face some painful decisions and to have some divisions within American society about this ...

You can say that every president we have had, even Lyndon Johnson for instance, even those who were not known for their Arab sympathies, were always less pro-Israel than the Congress. The result is a significant gap. In the Arab World I think it is hard to appreciate that, because it didn't do you any good. But I think people in Washington were always conscious of that. The Congress is the place where the pro-Israel lobby exercises its most powerful influence, and the president is always trying to restrain them from passing resolutions that are excessive or aid bills that would embarrass the United States, in this area.

Mr. Tutunji: My question is, it looks as if he intends to go over the head of Congress and try to enlist support from the American people for the position he wants to adopt on the Middle East conflict -- as a way of getting around opposition from Congress.

Prof. Kerr: Well that might be, but I also notice here that he says: "When I make a decision as president, I think other nations will pay much more attention if their leaders know that the American people and Congress support me." I don't think he wants to have more trouble with Congress than necessary, but he probably does

feel that the Congress will be influenced by the public and he can influence the public.

Dr. Abdul Rahman: Do you think Carter's attitude vis-a-vis the energy crisis and his dramatisation of it is also meant to reach the people and educate them, let us say on the importance of the Middle East, consequently resolving the Middle East problem?

Prof. Kerr: President Carter seems to be making an effort to exercise presidential persuasion, to exercise real leadership and I think that this is a very good sign for the Middle East.

Of course we know that there is a connection between the energy question and the Middle East problem, but it is a secondary thing in relation to Mr. Carter's publicising of the energy problem.

Mr. Khouri: There are three areas where Carter has started to act decisively: southern Africa, the energy question, and there are clear signs that he has started to act decisively on the whole question of what is called the new international economic order, the north-south dialogue -- commodities, the whole thing.

And it seems to me as somebody who follows these things that his whole approach is characterised by an extraordinary, fresh sense of realism in all of them. This is not so say he is doing good or bad, but he is looking at these three completely different situations with a very realistic and practical eye.

On the north-south dialogue one practical thing he has done is to continue the policy that Ford started, which is to increase the resources of the IMF and the World Bank, particularly with an eye to giving an extra lending capacity to underdeveloped nations.

But he has made clear statements -- as has Brzezinski -- that this is a policy they are going to go ahead with, which is completely opposite to Kissinger. Kissinger was stalling ...

Prof. Kerr: Yes, I agree with that.

Mr. Khouri: But in all these three areas, the single thing that characterises his policy is his sense of realism. He seems to be a fellow who looks at the problem and says this is the way the cards are falling, this is what is going on, this is the best way the Americans can act. Is it fair -- is it realistic -- for us to expect that this sense of realism will be carried over into his Middle East approach?

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16:55 Arabic feature 18:30 Big Valley 20:00 News in Arabic Chassis 3 19:30 Religious programme 20:30 Arabic series 21:20 Reportage Chassis 4 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:30 George and Mildred 21:10 Best sellers 22:00 News in English 22:15 Kojak	

AMMAN AIRPORT	
Arrivals:	7:00 Abu Dhabi 7:55 Muscat, Doha 8:30 Cairo (EA) 8:45 Beirut 8:45 Kuwait (KAC) 9:00 Agaba (MED) 9:45 Jeddah, Madras, Hael 10:00 Tabuk, Jeddah, Madras, Hael (SID) 10:00 Cairo 17:05 Jeddah, Madras, Tabuk (SID) 18:00 Cairo 18:15 Madrid, Athens 18:30 Brussels, Rome 18:30 Paris, Beirut (AF) 21:05 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)
21:25 London (BA) 00:30 Rome (Alitalia)	Departures: 6:30 Agaba 7:30 Cairo (EA) 8:45 Beirut (MEA) 8:45 Cairo (EA) 10:00 Athens, Amsterdam 10:00 Frankfurt, Copenhagen 11:30 Cairo 12:45 Kuwait (KAC) 18:15 Jeddah, Tabuk 19:30 Dubai, Karachi 21:30 Jeddah, Madras, Hael 22:30 Ravalpindi (BA) 23:00 Kuwait 01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)

VOICE OF AMERICA	
18:00 Special English, News Feature: The Living Earth, News Summary, Music USA (Standards), News Roundup, Reports, Accidents, Opinions, Analysis, News Summary, VOA Magazine, American Science, Cultural Letters.	20:00 Special English, News (Jazz) 21:00 World Report 21:00 News ... newsmakers voices ... correspondents reports ... back ground features ... as comments ... news analyses.

RADIO JORDAN	
7:00 Breakfast show 7:30 News 7:45 News reports 8:00 Sign off 10:00 Listeners' choice 11:30 My kind of music 11:30 Catch the words 11:45 Arab session 12:00 Pop session 12:00 News summary 13:05 Pop session 14:00 News 14:10 Radio magazine	14:30 Good vibrations 15:00 Concert hour 16:00 Old favourites 16:30 Easy listening 17:00 Jordan weekly 17:30 Pop session 18:00 News summary 18:05 Pop session 18:15 Songs for you 18:45 Book review 19:00 News 19:10 Music 19:30 Sign off

BBC RADIO	
05:00 World News; 24 hours 05:30 Sarah Ward 06:00 The World Today 06:00 News; Press Review 06:30 The Music Room 07:00 News; 24 hours 07:30 Sarah Ward 07:45 Merchant Navy Programme 08:00 News; Reflections 08:15 Music from Old Vienna 08:30 Be My Guest 09:00 News; Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:45 Pride and Prejudice 10:15 Merchant Navy 10:30 Folk and Country 11:15 News 11:15 Face of England 11:30 Discovery 12:00 Radio Newstreet 12:15 Terry Wogan's LP Showcases 12:45 Sports Round-up 12:45 News; 24 hours 13:00 World News 13:00 News Ideas 13:40 Ustaz, This Week 13:45 Don Wynn Requests	14:15 Letterbox 14:30 Orb and Sceptre 15:00 Radio Newstreet 15:15 Outlook 16:00 News; Commentary 16:15 Science in Action 16:45 The World Today 17:00 News 17:30 Music Now 17:30 Book Choice 17:30 Sports Round-up 18:00 News 18:15 Radio Newstreet 18:30 Equals to the Task 19:00 Outlook; News Summary 19:42 Stock Market 19:45 Strike up the Band 20:30 News 20:30 Be My Guest 21:00 World Radio Club 21:15 Sarah Ward Requests 21:45 Scotland 77 22:00 News; The World Today 22:25 Financial News 22:45 Sports Round-up 23:00 World News; Commentary 23:15 From the Weeklies 23:15 Brain of Britain 1977

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# Beirut University College weathers Lebanese storm

By Lisa Gross  
Special to the Jordan Times

From 1973 to 1975 the college was growing fast, Dr. Badre stated. It was initially planned to be for only 1,000 students so it could offer each person the kind of personal attention -- both academically and in extra-curricular activities -- that is not possible at larger institutions and also to encourage intellectual and character development.

"We were obliged -- under very strong pressure from various people -- to increase the number to 1,100," Dr. Badre added.

"During the Lebanese civil war, many of our students from outside Lebanon left. Consequently, enrollment declined drastically by about 50 per cent, then 75 per cent, and finally we were left with only 180 students in 1976," Dr. Badre explained.

One of the survivors of the Lebanese civil war is Beirut University College (BUC), which occupies the unique position of being the only institute in the Middle East designed to serve the educational needs of college-level women with a four-year liberal arts programme. Its president, Dr. Badre, was recently here for the Arab Universities Union meet. The Jordan Times took the opportunity to interview him to find out how this unique college had weathered the storm of the past two years.

"Because of these contractual obligations, our expenses were not reduced, but our income dropped tremendously. In 1975-1976 we lost two-thirds of our income and we were only able to prune one-fifth of our expenses."

"We had -- for the first time -- a big deficit, which was more than covered by our regular gifts."

"In order to collect funds, I personally had to go to the U.S.," while Dr. Marie Sabri, the Vice President of Public Relations, who is a very well-known figure in the region and Dr. Mohammad Yakan, the Director of Development, toured the Arab World.

"In fact, during the 1975-76 academic year, we were able to raise more than double the amount needed from the U.S. In the Arab World, the contribution was as generous, but the percentage was a little less since we lost most of the gifts in Lebanon."

In addition, the staff lent the college up to half their salaries for a period of five years without interest to enable the college to run.

"We can therefore say that we have survived," Dr. Badre proudly stated, but the question that arises is what for.

He recently started to take a serious look at our academic programme to make sure that our service would be even better than it was in the past -- although we are proud of the 53 years of service the college has provided.

"We intend in particular to strengthen the departments we are going to retain and in which we can do a better job than other universities and establishments of higher learning."

Such fields include the physical sciences in which science teachers are prepared; computer maths, which is taught exclusively at BUC; mass communications, which emphasises radio and television production; and business studies, which includes management, accounting and secretarial work.

Moreover, BUC is the only institute of higher learning in the Middle East that offers in-

Dr. Badre added that among 47 nationalities at the college, Jordanian students comprise the largest numbers. Only the Lebanese students themselves exceed them.

The president stated that no formal coordination exists with the University of Jordan, but that certain forms of cooperation take place. In 1973, for example, BUC helped the University of Jordan in administrative matters concerning Educational management.

The association decided to expand membership to include official Arab tourist companies, tourist and port agencies and hotels. It further decided to participate in the meetings of the American Society of Tourist Agencies (ASTA) and the International Federation of Travel Agents (IFTA).

The President of the Union of Arab Tourist Offices, Yaser Abu Al Saud, said the Assembly passed a number of important resolutions and recommendations to activate transport and tourist agencies.

The association will call for a further meeting in Beirut next April.

## Arab tourist body expands membership

AMMAN (JNA). — The Arab Association of Tourism and Travel Agents, at the end of its fifth general assembly here Wednesday, decided to expand its membership so as to cope with the expansion in tourist opportunities in a more efficient manner.

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## West Germany donates 5,100 tons of flour

AMMAN (JNA). — The government Thursday took delivery of 5,100 tons of flour donated by the West German government for refugees in Jordan.

The donation was delivered by West German Ambassador Horst Schmidt-Dorledden to Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas, Chairman of the Higher Ministerial Committee for the Welfare of Refugees.

## ISLAMIC BODY OKAYS LAW ON TRANSPLANTS

AMMAN (JNA). — The committee at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which looks into interpretations of Islamic law, issued a legal opinion Thursday permitting the transplant of human organs from a dead person to another if the transplanted parts help the life of the patient or his organs.

The Cabinet had referred its law on the transplant of human organs to the committee before putting it into effect.

## Ajlouni talks on social security law

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni delivered a lecture on the proposed social security law at the Alumni Club of the University of Jordan Thursday.

Mr. Ajlouni reviewed the aims and purposes of the law and said that such a project would form a firm foundation for a better society based on production, which would ensure a degree of self-sufficiency and provide job opportunities for all citizens.

The lecture, part of the club's cultural activities, was attended by representatives of trade unions and members of the club.

## Trade team visits Iraq

BAGHDAD, May 5 (R). — A Jordanian economic delegation led by Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Hashem Al Dabbas arrived here today.

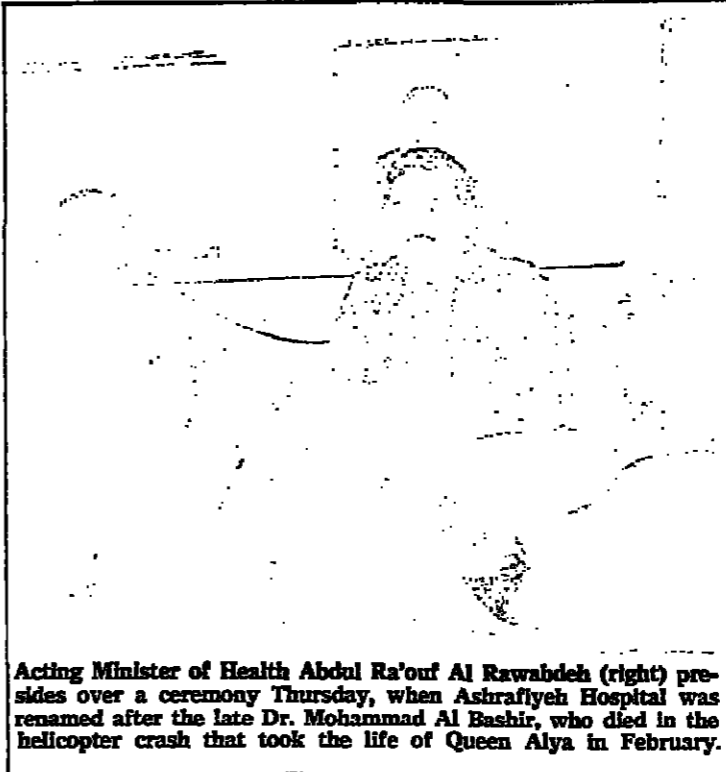
The Iraqi news agency INA said that the delegation would hold talks aimed at developing economic links between the two Arab countries.

The talks would also seek to increase trade between Iraq and Jordan from its present annual volume of JD 8 million INA added.

## EURO-ARAB PARLIAMENTARY TEAM LEAVES

AMMAN (JNA). — A delegation of the preparatory committee for a Euro-Arab parliamentary conference left here Thursday after a one-day visit to Jordan.

During its visit, the delegation met His Highness Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, and discussed with Jordanian officials aspects of cooperation at the political and economic level.



Acting Minister of Health Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh (right) presides over a ceremony Thursday, when Ashrafiyeh Hospital was renamed after the late Dr. Mohammad Al Bashir, who died in the helicopter crash that took the life of Queen Ailya in February.

## Labour accord signed

AMMAN (JNA). — The Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) signed a cooperation agreement here Thursday.

The agreement provides for the exchange of information and documents, coordination of joint projects and activities, consultation in all fields of mutual benefit and organisation of joint seminars and conferences.

## NATIONAL NOTES

\* AMMAN. — Her Highness Princess Basma Thursday opened the annual exhibition at Rosary College branch in Jabal Amman on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's silver jubilee.

\* AMMAN. — Prime Minister Mudar Badran called on the Syrian Druze leader Sultan Al Attrash at the Hussein Medical Centre Thursday. Mr. Badran wished Mr. Al Attrash a speedy recovery.

\* AMMAN. — The Cabinet Wednesday appointed Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim to lead Jordan's delegation to the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries, which will meet in Tripoli, Libya, May 16-23.

\* AMMAN. — The Cabinet has appointed Jordan's Ambassador to West Germany, Mr. Ibrahim Izzeddine, as non-resident Ambassador to Denmark and Sweden.

\* AMMAN. — The Directorate of Civil Defence began a training course for a number of officers from the Gulf states Wednesday. The course will last six weeks.

\* AMMAN. — The Soviet ambassador to Jordan held a luncheon banquet on the occasion of Soviet press day Thursday. He reviewed the history of the Soviet press and explained that the Soviet Union supports the Arabs in their struggle against the Israeli aggressor.

## Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	567.0	573.0
U.S. dollar	23.7	31.0
German mark	132.7	140.1
French franc	66.6	66.9
Swiss franc	130.6	131.0
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.2	37.4
Saudi riyal	93.4	93.6
Lebanese pound	108.7	109.1
Syrian pound	80.8	81.0
Iraqi dinar	947.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,148.0	1,152.0
Egyptian pound	460.0	465.0
Libyan dinar	760.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.4	84.8

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# Will industrial nations be able to give ample support to developing countries at London summit considering their own problems?

LONDON, May 5 (R). — Can the economic summit conference here this weekend give sufficient help to satisfy poor countries in their life and death struggle to raise living standards?

This is the most urgent question facing leaders of the seven leading non-communist industrial nations attending the conference opening on Saturday.

The summit nations — the United States, Japan, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Canada — will be unable to give effective support unless they can cope satisfactorily with their own serious trade and financial problems, unemployment and inflation.

However, the search for a workable deal between the non-communist industrial nations and the raw material exporting countries of the Third World brooks no delay.

This is because within less than a month rich and poor nations engaged in the North-South economic dialogue in Paris are due to end their negotiations. After 18 months of often bitter and acrimonious debate, the Paris talks have produced only scant results.

The London summit offers a last chance to produce a breakthrough. The key will be the new international policies now being developed by President Carter, leader of the world's

strongest economic power, who is meeting all his major allies together for the first time.

For the developing nations, the summit will above all demonstrate whether President Carter is prepared to match his defence of human rights throughout the world by marshalling the economic might of the industrial democracies in the cause of a fairer deal for the poor.

Senior Western officials said the summit leaders would find that the economic recovery for their countries, anticipated with confidence at their previous meeting in Puerto Rico last June, had been slower than expected.

Unemployment of around 15 million people among the 24 major non-communist industrial nations has produced social and political instability.

This applied particularly to Italy and other Southern European countries.

The officials said that for Western industrialised nations the special problem of unemployment among the young had become acute.

In contrast Japan was more worried about finding jobs for the old.

The officials added that high rates of inflation were further endangering the social fabric of the non-communist world.

Ill-considered reflationary policies — even if they provided

more jobs — would unleash a new inflationary spiral. This could be more damaging than the surge in prices which followed the five-fold increase in oil prices after the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973.

Despite the internal pressures to raise barriers against foreign competitors to protect home industries, the summit leaders will reaffirm their firm commitment to liberal trade policies.

Japan is anxious to see that its summit partners do not impose further restrictions on the exports of its highly competitive goods like motor cars, ship, steel, television sets and transistor radios.

Since President Carter took office last January there has been a marked shift in the United States attitude on the need for powerful reflationary action by other richer countries like West Germany and Japan.

This is because the Americans have become more wary of the dangers of inflation after an alarming spurt in prices. President Carter has reduced his own stimulatory package by cancelling a planned income tax rebate of \$50 per head.

The degree to which the wealthy countries stimulate demand in their own economies is of vital importance to their trading partners whose recovery is still faltering.

Bigger markets would enable deficit countries to step up production, provide more jobs and increase exports.

One concrete proposal expected to be scrutinised at the summit is a European Common Market plan to set up a one billion dollar special fund to provide short-term financial relief for the poorest countries.

Another is the developing nations' insistence on the creation of a Common Fund to help stabilise commodity prices. The Third World states want this fund ultimately to total six billion dollars and have made its realisation a central objective of the North-South Dialogue.

Arbia had now agreed in principle of a price increase of eight per cent rather than the five per cent he was previously suggesting.

According to the report, the minister added that the Shah of Iran had, meanwhile, agreed to moderate his demand to 10 per cent instead of continuing to press for 15 per cent.

The Al Anwar report did not say whether these increases would be applied to the rate now being charged by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, or to the higher price of the other 11 member-states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

It quoted the minister as saying that "two solutions to the problem of dual pricing are being discussed by OPEC states in preparation for the uni-

fication of prices within the coming weeks."

The minister had also told the paper that Mr. Perez suggested two other proposals during his recent tour.

The first was that a large-scale international information campaign be launched to explain the oil question and the problems of the Third World, rather than laying stress on OPEC's contribution to preserving the existing world economic order.

The second proposal was that OPEC should found a research institute devoted to studying the problems and needs of Third World states.

Al Anwar said these proposals received an especially warm welcome from the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayian.

Commonwealth report proposes far-reaching changes to close rich-poor gap

The final and most important report of the Commonwealth's "ten wise men" on ways of closing the gap between rich and poor has just been completed. It will be a major item on the agenda of the Commonwealth summit conference in London in June. Far-reaching changes in the world's economic order are proposed. Whether the rich world has the political will to implement the proposals depends largely on the Carter administration's readiness to change the American position.

issue of a new order depends very much on the attitude of the Carter government in the United States. So far Washington has not revealed any new hand on this matter and Britain, West Germany and Japan are still following in tow.

Last year's lack of movement by the U.S. was seen as being due to a combination of presidential election year and the world recession, and one view is that a new American line will emerge around the time of the next summit of the rich — the Downing Street meeting which Carter will attend in London in May.

At the Non-Aligned Movement in Colombo last August the mood of the Third World had begun to change. It had become resigned to the fact that there was only one way ahead for the poor countries: Together they must try to pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

This mood is now picked up by the "ten wise men" and related to the huge shopping list they put forward as essential points for action if the rich-point gap is not to be prevented even from widening year by year.

The range of the report is vast, dealing on the one hand with the need for long-term and fundamental changes in the world's monetary and financial institutions, in land reform and calling for new dimensions of international help, and on the other with particular items, such as how commodity producers should deal with synthetics, the use of fertilisers, the packaging of goods to suit different types of countries, and ideas about shipping, tourism, banking and insurance.

A key section deals with industrialisation. The report says a commitment to accelerate development in developing countries is meaningless unless it implies a commitment to accelerate their industrialisation. Equally, the rich countries must accept that structural changes in their industrial complex are necessary and inevitable.

Over the next 25 years, 1,000 million more people will be added to the labour force in the developing countries. Only significant and sustained industrialisation can provide the new jobs required. Rich countries should recognise that their own development would be helped by sustained expansion of manufacturing in poor countries.

Strong groups in the rich countries press for continuation of trade restrictions on the grounds that their removal would unleash a flood of cheap manufactures on them. This fear is exaggerated says the report, which provides convincing reasons why that is so.

On problems about creating unemployment in the rich countries and pollution in the poor ones the report calls for government policies that lead to the de-concentration of certain types of industry.

UNIDO (the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) comes under considerable criticism and is urged to become much more active in helping the poor countries to industrialise by bringing together government and industry representatives of rich and poor for special industrial schemes, setting up and organising access to technology data banks, and decentralising its own machinery.

The report emphasises the importance of regional groupings. Some of these, it says, are making little progress and one or two are at a standstill. To counteract tendencies towards polarisation all should have special programmes between their more developed and less developed states. Some form of payments mechanism for intra-Third World trade should be investigated.

In an attempt to cheer those doubtful about the vi-

## Saudi Arabia may match U.S. contribution to "Witteveen facility"

WASHINGTON, May 5 (R). — Saudi Arabia's minister of finance and national economy held talks here yesterday on the Saudi contribution to a new fund being set up by the International Monetary Fund to help countries with balance of payments problems.

Informed sources said minister Sheikh Mohammad Ali Abasi Khalil indicated to IMF Managing Director H. Johannes Witteveen that his country would put up the four to six billion dollars most widely me-

tioned as its share of the fund.

But it was thought likely that Saudi Arabia would agree to match the United States contribution, which top Carter administration officials have suggested will be between two and three billion dollars.

Mr. Witteveen hopes the fund, dubbed "the Witteveen facility" because he conceived the plan, will raise between nine and 16 billion dollars with the cost shared equally between rich industrial countries and the major oil-producing nations.

## Use of Middle East as a Soviet control lever on Europe concerns U.S.'s Brown

WASHINGTON, May 5 (R). — U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown said yesterday he expected the Soviet Union would continue to seek a controlling voice in the Middle East as a way of putting pressure on an energy hungry Europe.

He told the House of Representatives select Energy Committee he did not believe the Russians could succeed in debilitating Europe by squeezing off its foreign oil sources, but the possibility was "indeed of concern."

The comments came as Mr. Brown joined Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in urging congressional approval of President Carter's programme to curb American fuel consumption and reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil suppliers.

Earlier, panel members visited the White House, where President Carter, who leaves today for a seven-nation economic summit in London, urged them to back his energy programme.

Mr. Brown initially spoke of Soviet efforts to cut off oil shipments through the Gulf and the Indian Ocean in a hypothetical sense. But after being questioned several times on the matter, he said:

"The possible use of the Middle East as a control lever on Europe is indeed of concern. So far the Soviet achievements in the Middle East have not worked out for them, fortunately for the rest of us."

"I don't think they can rely

on that as a way to control, debilitate and overcome Europe without military action in Europe but I expect them to keep trying. Indeed, that is one of the reasons why the (oil) problem is a difficult one."

The two cabinet members were the first administration witnesses before the special energy committee, holding its first full-scale meeting since it was created last month.

## Ugandan ministries run up big hotel bills

NAIROBI, May 5 (R). — Ugandan government ministries have run up debts totalling over three million shillings (\$200,000) at two state-owned hotels, radio Uganda reported today.

The radio said the ministries had been given until Saturday to pay the debts.

The broadcast, monitored near \$51,000 shillings (\$33,000) owed by the defence ministry to 751 shillings (\$50) incurred by the foreign ministry.

President Idi Amin's office owed 56,000 shillings (\$4,000) the radio said.

Both hotels are located in Entebbe, one of them at the international airport there.

## IMF gold auction brings in \$56.3 million for aid to developing countries

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund, in the latest of a series of monthly auctions, sold 524,800 ounces of gold yesterday at prices running from \$147.33 to \$150.26 an ounce — slightly lower than prices paid at last month's auction.

The average price at the sale, carried out under "classic" auction rules, was \$148.02 an ounce against the \$149.18 recorded at the April auction. The last price fixing in London yesterday was \$148.10 an ounce.

The auction brought in about \$56.3 million for the IMF's special trust fund for the benefit of developing countries, making a total of around \$562 million from all the auctions so far. The IMF is selling a total of 25 million ounces of gold over four years, with profits going into the trust fund.

Yesterday's auction was the ninth in the series. Bids were received for a total of 1,316,400 ounces. The names of the buyers will be released later today. The next IMF gold auction will take place June 1.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

- \* MACAO, May 5 (AFP). — Macao will build a new one million dollar sea terminal to improve the service between this Portuguese colony and Hong Kong, the government announced today. Work on the terminal may begin this year.
- \* NEW DELHI, May 5 (AFP). — Violent storms and rainfall have destroyed a large part of the crops in northern India during the past few days, causing damage estimated at \$244 million, it was reported here today. About two million tonnes of wheat were destroyed or damaged.
- \* BERLIN, May 5 (AFP). — The Soviet economy will undergo moderate growth during the 1976-1980 plan, industrial investment will be cut, and priority will be given to private consumption and agriculture, according to the West Berlin Economic Research Institute D.I.W. It noted in its weekly report that growth in Soviet industrial output dropped last year to 4.8 per cent but forecast a higher rate in the future. However, the plan's objectives would have to be met with slower investment: 4.7 per cent per annum against 6.9 per cent in the preceding five-year period.
- \* RANGOON, May 5 (R). — Burma has devalued its currency by nearly 10 per cent, banking sources said today. No official announcement has been made about the devaluation of the kyat, but the sources said banks were informed of new conversion rates against major currencies last Monday.
- \* TEHRAN, May 5 (R). — French Supply and Regional Development Minister Jean-Pierre Fourcade said yesterday that France and Iran agreed on the financing of two 900-megawatt nuclear power plants in Iran and construction would begin next month.
- \* INVERNESS, Scotland, May 5 (AFP). — Increased aid for the poorer regions of the European Economic Community countries was demanded here yesterday. The call came from national delegation members at the second plenary meeting of the conference of peripheral maritime regions (CPMR) of the community being held until Friday.
- \* ROME, May 5 (AFP). — Leaders of Italy's Communist and Christian Democratic Parties met here today to discuss the country's economic plight — the first official encounter between the parties for 30 years. Communist Party General Secretary Enrico Berlinguer met his Christian Democratic counterpart Benigno Zaccagnini in the latest in a series of key inter-party discussions. Italian political parties are trying to work out a joint programme to set the country back on the economic rails.
- \* LONDON, May 5 (AFP). — The floating bank rate of the Bank of England might be adjusted downwards tomorrow for the sixth time in as many weeks, city experts said today. They said the Central Bank's minimum lending rate (MLR) was likely to drop from 8.25 to 8 per cent. The rate is linked to the short term rate of treasury bonds.

## WALL STREET REPORT

Prices rose slightly once again Thursday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average gained nearly three points in active trading.

The market opened on a lower tone, but then recovered rapidly in spite of the announcement by the Commerce Department that the wholesale price index had risen 1.1 per cent in April. Investors remain in optimistic mood, which has allowed the market to gain nearly 16 points in four straight sessions of gains since the beginning of the week.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a moderate 816 to 601 margin, as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to slightly higher tone.

Airline, railway and copper issues, however, were generally lower. Occidental Petroleum rose 5/8 to 23-7/8 in active trading, while Lockheed gained 5/8 to 10-1/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 943.44, a gain of 2.72 points; Transp at 239.58, a loss of 0.78, utilities at 109.92, a loss of 0.29. 23,450,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,090,000 during the last hour.

The market closed mixed as government stocks gave up earlier gains following profit-taking and leading equities turned mixed after earlier firmness. At 15:00 the F.T. index was up 3.1 at 443.1.

Short-dated government bonds were occasionally 1/16 higher after gains of up to 1/4 while long relinquished gains up to 3/8 point. Equities were generally off the top and some shares finished a few pence easier as demand slackened, dealers added. Oils were mixed but banks were around 5p to 9p higher after rises of 12p to 14p.

Mining shares continued easier with the lower gold bullion price while Australians and Canadians tended higher.

Some lenders gained a few pence more after yesterday's rises, but others saw light profit taking and closed slightly easier, dealers said.

F and O, and Sainsbury both added a few pence on further consideration of yesterday's results but Dunlop was unchanged after yesterday's rights issue news. ICI, Marks, Fisons, Glaxo, Courtauld and B.P. all closed easier by 1p to 6p, while gains of a penny or so were recorded in Lucas, Bowater, GKN, A.P. Cement, and London Brack. Rises of 6p to 10p were seen in EMI, Hawker, Beecham and Unilever due to demand and stock shortages, dealers added.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$147.00/oz.

## Unappreciation of Latin America's significance hampers solutions to world economic problems

BUENOS AIRES, May 5 (R). — Wealthy countries do not appreciate the importance of Latin America to world economy, Inter-American Development Bank President Antonio Ortiz Mena said here.

He told Argentine and foreign officials, bankers and businessmen at the Central Bank headquarters that this lack of understanding seriously affected priorities, policies and co-operation with developing countries.

In recent years, official aid had tended to go mostly to the poorest countries while most Latin American nations were left to raise funds on the international capital markets where increasingly restrictive terms were being demanded,

Senor Ortiz said in his speech Tuesday night.

This showed a lack of clear understanding of the importance of Latin America, and of the role it could play in any long-term solution to the problems confronting the world economy.

Recently there had been concern expressed about the growing external debts of Latin American countries, said Senor Ortiz Mena. Such views might undermine confidence in the solid financial situation of most Latin American countries.

Latin America, particularly Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, which account for 70 per cent of the area's gross domestic product, was an ideal market for Middle East financial surpluses, he said.

tribution to the global debate, forcing along discussion of ideas for moving the world towards a new economic order.

The other two reports of the "wise men", the first produced in time for the U.N. Seventh Special Session in September 1975 and the second for UNCTAD 4 in Nairobi last May, served that purpose and are generally acknowledged to have provided important backup for many of the arguments put there.

This third report is the most important and likely to prove the most influential. It will provide the basis for the big discussion of the world economic situation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London (June 8-16) — the debate which, despite Southern Africa, and the distractions of the Commonwealth games issue and Amin, could be the most important item of the conference.

The report has been written against a sombre background; namely, that nearly two years after the U.N. Seventh Special Session and all the hope that was held out at the time for bringing some alleviation to the plight in which the Third World countries find themselves as a result of the old economic order, nothing has happened.

At UNCTAD 4, at the Geneva negotiations on a common fund for commodities, and at the North-South Dialogue in Paris — the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC) — which has dragged on for the best part of two years, the rich countries have shown a rigidity that must soon lead to despair and desperation.

At the U.N. in 1975 the poor opted against confrontation with the rich, but the response of the rich to this conciliatory mood has been minimal.

Whether there is to be a period of renewed tension between rich and poor over the

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



# Indonesian opposition says elections rigged

JAKARTA, May 5 (R). — President Suharto conferred with Indonesia's chief opposition leader today after receiving a report claiming widespread ballot-rigging took place in general elections last Monday.

The strictly Islamic United Development Party (PPP), the main rival of the ruling Golkar movement which won the elections, submitted a report on the alleged irregularities to the president this morning.

President Suharto met the PPP Chairman, Social Affairs Minister H.M.S. Mintaredja, shortly afterwards.

A party spokesman said the vote-rigging allegations were likely to have been discussed at the meeting.

The PPP report said that more than one million people in East Java, most of them opposition supporters, had been unable to vote because they did not receive the necessary letters of notifications.

The protest was supported by students from universities and institutes in West Java who monitored the voting and concluded that fresh elections should be held in some areas.

On the eve of the elections for a new central parliament, President Suharto said that new ballots would be ordered in any places where irregularities could be proved. His reaction to the PPP report today was not immediately known.

Golkar, a military-backed alliance of more than 200 functional and professional organisations, captured more than 60 per cent of the votes counted so far.



MENGISTU IN MOSCOW — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam lays a wreath at Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square on Thursday. (AP wirephoto).

# Mengistu's welcome in Moscow unmistakably shows Soviets approve of Ethiopia

MOSCOW, May 5 (AFP). — Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile-Mariam who arrived in Moscow yesterday appears to have won assurances of Soviet support in all fields, observers said here today.

Toasts exchanged between Lt-Col. Mengistu and Soviet head of state Nikolai Podgorny at a Kremlin dinner last night and the full page Pravda devoted to the visit today leave little doubt about that.

Mr. Podgorny confirmed the approval, voiced in the Soviet press before the Ethiopian ruler's arrival, for Addis Ababa's "socialist orientation" and in particular for the tough repressions it is carrying out.

"We understand perfectly that the reforms you have decided are meeting violent resistance from internal reactionaries and we are pleased to see that you have won new victories in fierce confrontations with them," Mr. Podgorny said.

The Soviet head of state also expressed Soviet appreciation of the Ethiopian leadership's efforts to settle the Eritrean problem "on a democratic basis".

Observers saw Mr. Podgorny's remark as interesting in the light of Lt-Col. Mengistu's assertion in his Kremlin speech that responsibility for the province's rebellion against Addis Ababa lay with "the Arab ruling classes".

The Ethiopian leader, addressed as "comrade" by his hosts, visibly appreciated Moscow's ideological approval of his regime, which he himself described as stemming from "the Marxism-Leninism of our time".

The Soviet leaders have laid great stress on their support for Ethiopia's "pacific external policy". Mr. Podgorny did not however take up Lt-Col. Mengistu's reference at last night's dinner to the French territory of Afars and Issas, due for independence next month, to which, he said, the Ethiopians, "linked by history, culture, blood and economy will not hesitate to give all the necessary support."

While not mentioned openly in the speeches, it was clearly implied that the Soviet Union will increase its military aid to Ethiopia.

Lt-Col. Mengistu was obviously thinking about arms when he said: "We need the complete support not only of socialist and progressive countries but also of all forces fighting for liberty, justice and socialism."

# More people ignore Irish strike

BELFAST, May 5 (AFP). — More and more people are ignoring a general strike order issued by Protestant hardliners, the office of British Secretary for Northern Ireland Roy Mason said today.

Workers stayed on the job today at the Ballylumford electricity generating station, the biggest in Ulster, although they reportedly voted yesterday to join the strike ordered into effect at midnight on Monday by the United Unionist Action Council of the Rev. Ian Paisley.

# 2 more arrests in case of W. German prosecutor

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, May 5 (R). — Police here have arrested two more people in the hunt for killers of West Germany's chief Prosecutor Siegfried Buback, the federal state attorney's office said here today.

The announcement follows the arrest on Tuesday of two leading West German anarchists, one wanted in connection with the same case, after a gun battle with police.

A spokesman gave the names of the latest two arrested as Herr Uwe Folkerts, 29-year-old brother of Herr Knut Folkerts who is one of three chief suspects wanted by police investigating last month's Buback murder, and 21-year-old student Herr Johannes Thimmes.

# Woman official in Schmidt's office suspected of spying

COLOGNE, West Germany, May 5 (R). — A woman official in Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's office has been arrested on suspicion of spying for a foreign power, the West German counter intelligence service said here today.

It said the arrest was made yesterday.

Staff in the chancellor's office were subjected to intensive security re-checking three years ago after the unmasking of Herr Guenter Guillaume, personal assistant of the then Chancellor Willy Brandt, as a master spy for Communist East Germany.

His arrest led to Herr Brandt's resignation and a sharp cooling of relations with East Germany.

Only two days ago East German Communist Party leader Erich Honecker declared in a dinner speech that his government was ready for new talks to improve relations with Bonn. The relations have been far from strained recently by East German restrictions on people moving to the West.

Should the latest case of alleged spying in the chancellor's immediate surroundings prove serious, observers here said it might delay new talks between East and West Germany.

The head of Herr Schmidt's office is expected to disclose further details of the case at a press conference called for later today.

Press reports quoting the public prosecutor said the arrested woman was handing documents in the Department of Affairs at the Chancellery and that she was an undercover agent for Communist Germany.

# State funeral for Ludwig Erhard

BONN, May 5 (R). — West German President Walter Scheel today ordered state funeral for ex-Chancellor Ludwig E. Erhard, architect of West Germany's economic miracle, who died in hospital here in the early hours of this morning.

The 80-year old veteran politician died of heart failure a hospital spokesman said. He had been suffering from circulatory trouble for some time and had been in hospital with broken ribs received in a car crash last March.

No date has yet been set for the funeral.

The economist who began life behind the counter of his father's draper's shop, received academic honours from universities all over the world in recognition of his leading role in the restoration of the West German economy.

When he became economics minister 28 years ago the future of war-battered West Germany, next to America, will play a dominant role as the strongest economic power in Europe.

Dr. Helmut Kohl, Chairman of the Christian Democratic Party of which Dr. Erhard was Honorary Chairman, praised him as "an unyielding fighter for freedom and justice."

"He fought for a social system centred on the individual

and his creative initiative," Dr. Kohl said.

The Free Democratic (Liberal) Party said his death was a loss to German democracy. Dr. Erhard was inseparably linked with the history of West Germany and its economic and political rise, it added.

Since resigning as chancellor in a government crisis in 1966, Dr. Erhard had played little active part in day-to-day politics though remaining a member of parliament.

In one of his last speeches he received applause from all three parties when he urged the government to pay more attention to moral stability than to economic stability.

Observers feared that Protestant extremists could be tempted to resort to violence to hide the failure of their strike appeal.

# West, East have parity in nuclear arms but the East has more troops, NATO says

BRUSSELS, May 5 (AFP). — Non-nuclear strike capabilities of the Eastern Bloc defence alliance are growing faster than those of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, latest NATO figures show.

A senior NATO official, presenting the figures to Western newsmen here, said there is an overall nuclear parity between the East and the West, but that the Warsaw Pact had the upper hand in troop strength.

Members of the Warsaw Pact were earmarking enormous sums for the improvement of their forces and this gave their conventional (non-nuclear) forces a sizeable and growing lead.

They also had a lead in chemical warfare potential that was alarming, the official said, putting the blame for the lag in the West on lower levels of expenditures.

He said that the Warsaw Pact had plugged the nuclear gap that 10 years ago was opened up by the United States, and that today the Eastern bloc possessed more long-range missiles than the West.

# West, East have parity in nuclear arms but the East has more troops, NATO says

An overall balance was maintained, however, by NATO lead in long-range bombers, the defence alliance official said.

He put the number of strategic missiles in the Eastern Bloc at 2,360 compared with 1,774 in the NATO arsenal. But said NATO had 387 bombers that had a range of more than 10,000 kms. against 140 for the Warsaw Pact.

Turning to conventional capabilities, the official said that NATO manpower in central Europe lagged one-third behind the Warsaw Pact, with 67 divisions against 90, and with each side defining what constitutes a division in its own way.

At the Vienna talks on the balanced reduction of forces in Europe, NATO has said it maintains 770,000 combat-ready troops, and estimated that the Warsaw Pact has 925,000.

The latest NATO figures showed the Warsaw Pact also had more fighter-planes, putting the total at 11,000 against 6,800 for the Western alliance.

Western experts regard the trend as worrisome, but are banking on what they believe to be the superior quality of the Tornado and F-16 aircraft scheduled to be put into service soon.

They also hope to offset the disadvantage through the prompt installation of a flying radar system aimed at improving both early-warning potential and deterrent force.

Soviet naval expenditures, the officials said, were tending to stabilise while those in the United States increased.

The figures showed that NATO can muster 430 warships compared with 220 for the Warsaw Pact, though the Eastern Bloc has an advantage both in the number of submarines (320 against 122).

NATO estimates that the Soviet Union is currently spending about 13 per cent of its gross national product on arms, much more than the 3.8 per cent spent on average by Western European countries.

But the official said that NATO would maintain the means of preventing any large-scale confrontation provided it did not drop efforts to strike a balance of force.

# Vorster may appoint interim governor in Namibia, paper says

JOHANNESBURG, May 5 (AFP). — South African Premier John Vorster is considering appointing a "governor" for Namibia to lead a "caretaker administration" of the South West African territory, the Rand Daily Mail reported here today.

The paper's Namibian expert J.H.P. Serfontein said Mr. Vorster was studying this plan, which would dispense with the interim government being set up by the South African-inspired constitutional conference in Windhoek.

The conference has been boycotted by the territory's main liberation movement SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation).

It is hoped that internationally-supervised elections, with SWAPO taking part, might be held under the new administration. Mr. Vorster was also hoping that the plan, not made public or officially confirmed, would be acceptable to the West, said the paper.

South Africa is under pressure from five Western nations -- the United States, Britain, France, Canada and West Germany -- to change its Namibian policies.

They want United Nations-supervised elections, with SWAPO taking part, and have described as "unacceptable" proposals for an interim government.

Representatives of the five nations had talks with South African government officials last week and these are scheduled to resume in about three weeks time.

Mr. Serfontein, however, believes the latest plan has little chance of success in view of SWAPO's "hardline attitude".

Meanwhile Namibia's leader and Chairman of the constitutional talks Mr. Dirk Mudge, has said here that the conference should push ahead with plans to set up an interim government.

In a campaign speech ahead of the May 17 referendum of the territory's white population, Mr. Mudge said the conference leaders would do their best to satisfy the five Western countries but would not take any decision not in Namibia's interests.

Observers here said Namibia was likely to be one of the main topics on the agenda when Mr. Vorster meets United States Vice President Walter Mondale in Vienna, Austria, later this month. Washington is taking a hardline attitude over Namibia and is demanding the transfer of power to the African majority -- with SWAPO taking part in any settlement -- as soon as possible.

Diplomatic sources said the U.S. was in favour of a strict arms embargo on Pretoria and possible economic sanctions if South Africa did not give way.

retary for Northern Ireland Roy Mason said today.

Workers stayed on the job today at the Ballylumford electricity generating station, the biggest in Ulster, although they reportedly voted yesterday to join the strike ordered into effect at midnight on Monday by the United Unionist Action Council of the Rev. Ian Paisley.

# London back to normal

LONDON, May 5 (R). — London returned to normal yesterday -- for the first time in nine months Big Ben was again chiming, the quarter hours.

The famous 118-year-old clock in the tower at the Houses of Parliament, was rocked by an explosion last summer caused by metal fatigue.

It continued to chime the hours, but Londoners felt that was hardly enough for yesterday's visit by Queen Elizabeth to parliament to mark the start of her silver jubilee celebrations.

Repairs to the machinery were hurried along and at one point nuclear scientists were called in to search for hidden flaws with radiographic equipment.

# WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

- \* PARIS, May 5 (AFP). — France today announced a new uranium-enrichment technique which excludes military uses and could mark a breakthrough in efforts to avoid proliferation of nuclear weapons. The new technique, developed by the French Atomic Energy Commissariat (CEA), permits production of slightly-enriched uranium for atomic power plants. The technique could not be used to produce highly-enriched uranium, which alone can serve to develop nuclear weapons.
- \* KUWAIT, May 5 (R). — A Kuwaiti daily newspaper said today that a top-level Syrian military delegation was in Moscow on an arms shopping mission. In an unsecured front-page report the newspaper Al-Siyassah said the delegation which arrived in Moscow last Sunday immediately reviewed agreements on the subject reached during Syrian President Hafez Assad's visit to Moscow last month, on the arms which Syria wanted to buy.
- \* TEL AVIV, May 5 (R). — Israeli scientists claimed today they had developed a new solar energy converter capable of raising the temperature of fluids to twice the boiling point of water. Dr. Gershon Grossman, head of the energy laboratory in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Technion, the Haifa institute of technology, said the system, using an absorber which follows the movement of the sun, could be used for solar air conditioning in summer and central heating in winter.
- \* ROME, May 5 (AFP). — The Italian government is planning a wide range of measures to fight the wave of lawlessness in the country but it will not introduce any special emergency regulations, it was learnt here today. Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti and President Giovanni Leone discussed yesterday upcoming measures to cope with the current nationwide wave of kidnappings, killings, bomb attacks and jail escapes. Government plans remain officially shrouded in secrecy but the daily Corriere Della Sera said today the government intended to concentrate on crime prevention and more efficient measures to stop prison escapes.
- \* LONDON, May 5 (R). — The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, returned home last night after a week-long tour of Rome, Istanbul, and Geneva and said he was encouraged by his talks with religious leaders in these three centres of Christianity. The visit by Dr. Coggan, titular head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, was aimed at achieving greater Christian understanding, and relations between the various Christian churches.
- \* KUWAIT, May 5 (R). — The Kuwaiti weekly newspaper Al Hadaf, said today that Sultan Qaboos of Oman would pay a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia before the middle of this month. In an unsecured report it said that the visit would precede the Sultan planned to visit to Egypt on May 15. Al Hadaf also said the Sultan and his Saudi hosts were expected to discuss bilateral relations, the security of the Gulf and relations between Oman and South Yemen.

# Nixon: I have let the American people down

WASHINGTON, May 5 (R). — Former President Richard Nixon, fighting back tears, last night admitted he had let down the American people and would have to carry that burden for the rest of his life.

Making his first public statement since the Watergate scandal forced him from office almost three years ago, Mr. Nixon told British television personality David Frost:

"I let down my friends. I let down the country. I let down our system of government and the dreams of all those young people that ought to get into government but think it's too corrupt, and the rest."

"Most of all, I let down an opportunity that I would have had for two and a half more years to proceed on great projects and programmes for building a lasting peace, which has been my dream," he said in an emotional end to the first of four 90-minute interviews to be televised here and subsequently in other countries.

He admitted he had let the American people down and added: "I had to carry that burden for the rest of my life."

Mr. Nixon, 64, also said he viewed his resignation as a voluntary impeachment.

At one point, he said he came close to resigning in April, 1973 because of Watergate instead of hanging on until August 1974 when he finally quit, the first American President to resign from office.

The former president said some of his friends had suggested the CIA might have been involved in some way in his downfall.

"However, I don't go with that idea... that what brought me down was a coup, a conspiracy, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera."

"Ah, I brought myself down. I gave 'em a sword. And they stuck it in, and they twisted it with relish," Mr. Nixon said, adding:

"And I guess if I'd been in their position, I'd have done the same thing."

For more than an hour, Mr. Nixon, looking tanned and fit, withstood a barrage of often testy questioning from Frost.

Over and over again, the interviewer confronted him with evidence of his deep involvement in the criminal attempt to cover up the role of White House and Nixon campaign officials in the June 17, 1972 break-in and bugging episode at democratic party headquarters here.

Mr. Nixon gave a vintage performance, lecturing his interviewer on the law, fending off accusations that he was guilty and portraying his mistakes as those of a man deeply devoted to his aides, not one intent on keeping the law from the White House door by subverting justice.

The only major revelation in the 90-minute session, dubbed "The Nixon Trial by Television," came when he said that on April 30, 1973, he almost resigned because he was so upset over having to fire his two closest aides.

Mr. Nixon described a conversation he had with his top speechwriter, Ray Price, who was drafting a statement on the dismissals of H.R. (Bob) Haldeman and John Ehrlichman.

"Ray, I said, 'If you think I oughta to resign,' I said, 'but that in too, because I feel responsible.' Even though I did not feel that I had, ah, engaged, in these activities consciously."

Both Haldeman and Ehrlichman were later convicted of obstructing justice in the Watergate cover-up conspiracy, for which Mr. Nixon was named as an unindicted co-conspirator.

"I'm sorry, I just hope I haven't let you... let you down..."

After recalling that conversation, the 64-year-old Mr. Nixon said that in point of fact he had let them down.

"I let down my friends. I let down the country."

It was then that the former president started to become emotional, recalling his personal agony in having to act as what he termed "the butcher" in dismissing his top aides.

He said that he could hardly bring himself to tell Ehrlichman in April, 1973, that he must leave. For a while, he said, he talked about the serene beauty of tulips blooming near his cabin at the presidential retreat at Camp David in Maryland the day he finally delivered the bad news to Ehrlichman, his domestic affairs adviser.

"I said, you know, John, when I went to bed last night... I hoped, I almost prayed I wouldn't wake up this morning."

Mr. Nixon said they both came close to tears and Ehrlichman responded, "Don't say that."

"I cut off one arm and then cut off the other arm," Mr. Nixon said of the dismissals. Quoting from a 19th century British prime minister, the former president said: "The first requirement for a prime minister is to be a good butcher."

"Well, I think the great story as far as a summary of Watergate is concerned, I ah, I did some of the big things rather well. I screwed up terribly in what was a little thing and became a big thing, but I will have to admit, I wasn't a good butcher," he said.

At the end, Frost demanded that Mr. Nixon apologise for putting the American people through two years of needless agony. This drew from the former president a lengthy reply in which he said he stayed on as long as he did for the good of the country.

He pointed to two major summit meetings with the Soviet Union that took place during the Watergate period.

"I think one of the major reasons I stayed in office was my concern about keeping the China initiative, the Soviet initiative, the Vietnam fragile peace agreement and the added dividend -- the first breakthrough in moving toward, not love, but at least not war in the Mideast."

As for his regrets, Mr. Nixon admitted: "I said some things that were not true. Most of them were fundamentally true on the big issues, but without going as far as I should have gone and saying perhaps that I had considered other things, but had not done them... and, for all those things I have a very deep regret."

"It snowballed. And it was my fault. I'm not blaming anybody else," he said, adding that he had "impeached" himself by resigning although he stood a chance of being vindicated if he fought it out in the U.S. Senate.

He admitted he had made mistakes, but these he said were: "mistakes of the heart rather than the head."

"People didn't think it was enough to admit mistakes," he said. "If they want me to get down and grovel on the floor, no. Never."

The ex-president added: "My political life is over, maybe I can give a little advice from time-to-time."

Some 30 reporters were admitted to a closely guarded screening room in a hotel here for a preview of the interview.

Among them were Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, whom Mr. Nixon referred to during the show with a bitter smile as "some unnamed correspondents, who have written a best selling book since then."

Mr. Bernstein described the show as "fascinating."



NIXON ON T.V. -- Former U.S. President Richard Nixon gestures during his interview, Wednesday night, with television personality David Frost. (AP wirephoto)